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Oakland CA 94610

Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to stop the USTelecom petition from being passed. This petition would dismantle critical components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. This 1996 act, by requiring wholesale access to copper-wire phone infrastructure, enables and supports competition in the telecom industry. This means it supports consumer choice and results in better service options for consumers. As a consumer, I have benefitted from this, because I was able to choose a competing provider over the dominant carrier (a member of the USTelecom trade group) in my area. I originally had service with the dominant provider, and it was terrible. TERRIBLE. Not only was the broadband service terrible, but their customer service was non-existent. Trying to reach an actual human being who could help resolve an issue was next to impossible. I believe the only reason it wasn't COMPLETELY impossible, is because they had and still have at least SOME competitors. I switched to one of them, and am so much happier. I can reach a real human being who helps me. And I'm sure their existence, even as a small company, puts at least a little pressure on the dominant providers to up their service options. I am urging you, DO NOT ALLOW THE USTELECOM PETITION TO BE PASSED. Thank you.

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